

CPYRGHT

Allen-Scott Report**Change Forecast
In Cuba Policy****By ROBERT S. ALLEN
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Mr. Allen

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President Kennedy is deliberating a gradual shift in U. S. policy toward Dictator Fidel Castro's Communist regime in Cuba. For more than a month, the President and his top foreign policy advisers have been discussing a plan under which the U.S. would resume "contact" with Castro on both "an informal and formal basis."

Under this backstage scheme, New York Attorney James Donovan, who negotiated the \$33 million ransom of the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion prisoners, would fly to Havana and Moscow to seek the withdrawal of all Soviet combat forces from Cuba.

IN EXCHANGE FOR their removal, the U.S. would agree to a step-by-step normalization of diplomatic and trade relations with the Red-ruled Castro dictatorship over a two-year period.

As a first step, the U.S. would reopen its embassy in Havana by sending a charge d'affaires there. It would present the Swiss ambassador as handling U.S. affairs.

An exchange of ambassadors and lifting of the trade embargo against Castro would follow after sufficient time had elapsed to make such a drastic "readjustment" palatable to the people and Congress.

This far-reaching shift in Cuban relations is part of President Kennedy's policy of seeking accommodations with Russia and its satellite bloc for the avowed purpose of reducing the risk of nuclear war by moderating tensions.

White House insiders say the proposed switch in Cuba policy fits squarely with strategy enunciated recently by the President in a speech that "Any plan of action in the Caribbean has to take into account conditions and potential developments between the U.S. and U.S.S.R."

The President favors 47-year-old Donovan for this highly explosive diplomatic mission for two reasons: his "acceptability" to Castro and Khrushchev, and his close ties with key administration officials, notably Attorney General

AFTER DONOVAN arranged the swap of Soviet spy Abel for U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, the President wrote him, "The type of negotiations you undertook, where diplomatic channels had been unavailing, is unique, and you conducted it with the greatest skill and courage."

Castro's enthusiasm for Donovan is about on a par with that of the President. In feelers through diplomatic channels to the State Department, the Cuban dictator has indicated he would accept Donovan as negotiator. Words to that effect have been conveyed on three separate occasions — March 8, May 12 and May 19.

A decision on this momentous scheme will not be made until after the President returns from his European trip.

By that time the White House staff hopes to know whether the House Foreign Affairs Committee will undertake an inquiry into Donovan's previous Cuban negotiations. Republican committeemen are vigorously pressing for such an investigation. They have strongly urged it in a joint letter to Representative Thomas Morgan, D-Pa., chairman.

RICHARD GOODWIN, free-wheeling executive secretary of the International Peace Corps, is still on the State Department's payroll. The House Appropriations Committee has ascertained that Goodwin is drawing \$19,656 as assistant of state for inter-American affairs, although he left that post more than four months ago.

Meanwhile, Sterling Cottrell, who replaced Goodwin, is being paid by the Bureau of Far Eastern Affairs. The House committee began checking Goodwin's pay as Congress voted down his request for \$30,000 to set up the new Peace Corps organization.

At a meeting with British officials, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., special assistant to the President, described U.S. policy on Cuba along these lines: The first objective is to clean up our backyard in Central and South America by vigorous implementation of the Alliance for Progress

Isolated Cuba back into the Organization of American States as a chastened, cooperating member.

Intelligence reports that around 100,000 Cubans are in Castro's jails for refusing to accept communism. Also that some 250,000 Cubans have fled, and another 180,000 are awaiting approval and transportation to leave.

Sen. John Stennis' Armed Services Preparedness subcommittee is preparing a new report on Castro-Communist subversion, sabotage and guerrilla warfare against Latin American countries. The report, slated for release next month, will warn that Castro has ordered an increase in these operations.

ALTHOUGH CASTRO has loudly proclaimed fealty and devotion to Russia, a so-called Cuban "scientific delegation," headed by a Captain Antonio Nunez Jimenez, is en route to Red China, ostensibly for "study and observation" purposes.

Beer bottles have become so scarce in Communist Cuba that the drinking of beer has been seriously affected. Apparently the shortage is not of beer but of the money to buy it. The shortage is so severe that the government has ordered the rationing of beer. The government has also ordered the rationing of other goods, including food. The government has also ordered the rationing of other goods, including food.

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